Preliminary Amendment National Stage of PCT/JP2003/016197

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the first paragraph on page 67 and replace it with the following new paragraph:

Desulfurization reaction rate constant =

$$[1/(Sp)^{(1.3-1)}-1/(Sf)^{(1.3-1)}] \times (LHSV) \times 1/(1.3-1)$$